

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 014977  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY/HLK

APPROVED BY P - MR. HABIB

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S - MR. SHANKLE

S/CL - MR. TARNOFF

-----220551Z 008933 /22

O 220525Z JAN 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 014977

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT BY SECRETARY TO LEBANON

1. FYI: LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS MADE STRONG PITCH FOR SECRETARY VANCE TO INCLUDE BEIRUT STOP ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP IN FEBRUARY. IN CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO INCLUDE SUCH A STOP, THE QUESTION OF SECURITY ARISES. WHILE SITUATION IN BEIRUT HAS GREATLY IMPROVED, THE PALESTINIAN CAMPS STILL REMAIN IN THE VICINITY OF THE AIRPORT AND SECURITY SITUATION ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY CAN HARDLY BE SAID TO HAVE RETURNED COMPLETELY TO NORMAL. END FYI.

2. PLEASE CHECK URGENTLY WITH THE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES (KHADDAM OR SHIHABI PRESUMABLY) AND TELL THEM ON A HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT A BEIRUT STOP IS BEING THOUGHT  
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ABOUT. ASK THEM IF THEY ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE SECRETARY'S SECURITY CAN BE ASSURED, BOTH IN FLYING INTO AND OUT OF BEIRUT AIRPORT AND IN MOVEMENT FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. SECRETARY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT GO INTO CITY AND WOULD BE IN LEBANON FOR ONLY THREE OR FOUR HOURS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY IN THE COUNTRY, BUT WE APPRECIATE

THE SPECIAL ROLE OF SYRIAN FORCES AND WOULD WANT A SYRIAN  
ASSESSMENT BEFORE MAKING OUR DECISION. PLEASE STRESS

IMPORTANCE OF HOLDING CLOSELY POSSIBILITY OF STOP BY  
SECRETARY IN BEIRUT. WE WANT TO AVOID ANY PUBLICITY  
UNTIL A DECISION IS MADE AND WOULD HOPE KNOWLEDGE OF  
THIS INQUIRY WOULD NOT BECOME KNOWN TO LEBANESE AT THIS  
STAGE.

3. FYI: WE NEED RESPONSE URGENTLY -- BY SATURDAY IF  
POSSIBLE BUT NOT LATER THAN SUNDAY JANUARY 23 -- SINCE  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST VISIT IS TO BE MADE SHORTLY  
THEREAFTER.

HABIB

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, SECURITY, ARMED FORCES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, CAT-B  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** ARDAY/HLK  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE VISIT BY SECRETARY TO LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, ASEC, LE, SY, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** DAMASCUS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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